(ii) Research on production to consumption systems in priority areas/themes to enhance productivity, nutrition, profitability, income and employment.

(iii) Research on sustainable rural livelihood security in disadvantaged regions through innovation system led by technology encompassing wider process of social and economic change covering all stakeholders.

(iv) Basic and Strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural sciences.

The possible stakeholders associated with the project will be from ICAR institutions, SAUs, General Universities, Private Sector, NGOs including Farmer Groups. The regional sensitization meetings for building awareness among the stakeholders are in progress.

Jatropha cultivation

3058. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of information and guidance, jatropha cultivation an alternate sustainable energy source for bio-fuel, is not catching up rapidly;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to create a separate department exclusively for jatropha development;

(c) the steps Government have taken for its research and development as jatropha cultivation involves sustainable development process leading to large-scale employment of rural manpower; and

(d) whether funds have been allotted to all the States exclusively for jatropha development; if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The information on various aspects including package of parctices on nursery raising & plantations of jatropha is being disseminated through training programmes organized for farmers under a central sector scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" implemented by National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board during 10th Plan.

(b) There is no proposal in Government of India to create a separate Department exclusively for jatropha development. However, based on the recommendations of the Committee on Development of Bio-fuels which was constituted by Planning Commission in July, 2002, a National Mission on Bio-Diesel with a special emphasis on large scale cultivation of jatropha for bio-diesel production has been envisaged.

(c) National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a National Network on Integrated development of Jatropha & Karanj during 2004-05. involving 38 R&D institutions of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) & State Agricultural Universities to address various researchable issues.

(d) National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is providing financial assistance to various Government Institutions including State Agricultural Universities & State Departments for promotion of tree borne oilseeds (TBOs) including jatropha under a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" during 10th Plan.

Composition of KVIC

3059. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength and composition of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) the number of posts of directors including Chairman stillaying vacant and since when, indicating the reasons therefor;

(c) the incentives Government have given, so far, to encourage and help weavers engaged in the production of khadi; and

(d) the figures of exports and local sales of khadi garments during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise till date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PARSAD): (a) and (b) Under the relevant provisions of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (as amended to date), the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) consists of 13 members (6 zonal members including the Chairperson, 4 expert members and 3 ex-officio members). There is no post of director in the Commission. The Chairperson and members of the Commission are in position.